

A Model for Malaysian Public Universities

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DEEP IN DISCUSSION: (From left) Professor Omar Farouk Sheikh Ahmad, Professor Dato' Dzulkifli Abdul Razak and Datin Masrah Hj. Abidin at the workshop.

The Department of Higher Education Management (JP IPT) and the Ministry of Higher Education (KPT) Malaysia have requested the help of the National Higher Education Research Institute (IPPTN) to study and subsequently to recommend a model for Malaysian public universities. The workshop was a joint effort between IPPTN, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) and JP IPT, and was held from 21 to 23 April 2006, at the Equatorial Hotel, Penang.

Fifty-six participants comprising academicians and administrative personels from various public institutions of higher learning and KPT attended the three-day workshop. Professor Omar Farouk Sheikh Ahmad, from Hiroshima City University was invited

to present a paper entitled *Reorganization and Restructuring of University. The Japanese Experience*.

The aims of the workshop were to look for and identify a suitable model for Malaysian public universities in the future; to study and devise a university governance system in Malaysia vis-à-vis the administrative system, the student entry system, the university's organisational structure, human resource management and other pertinent management elements; to study the method and the model for university funding; to produce a suitable model for academic programmes; as well as to assess preliminary legal implications from the suggested model.

The workshop was officiated by

the Vice-Chancellor of USM, Y Bhg. Professor Dato' Dzulkifli Abdul Razak. The Vice-Chancellor opened the discussion with a thought provoking paper entitled *Model of Malaysian Universities: Devil's Advocate*. The participants then were briefed on several key issues regarding current and future developments in higher education. They then worked with members of the workshop committee in five separate groups to deliberate and discuss related issues. Among the views expressed during the discussion was that there should be a role differentiation among various categories of universities in Malaysia and that it would be more desirable to have a variety of interrelated models for the various universities. The outcome of the discussions was then compiled by IPPTN and subsequently presented to the JP IPT.